

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-01 EB-07 COME-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 BIB-01

OTPE-00 OC-05 CCO-00 /085 W
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R 131103Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 066

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 2112

DEPT PASS AID

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, ETEL, CD

SUBJ: PRESIDENT REQUESTS URGENT CONSIDERATION FINANCING

TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECT

1. PRESIDENT SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL (AND CHIEF OF STATE)
GEN MALLOUM CALLED IN CHARGE AUGUST 9 FOR MEETING ALSO ATTENDED
BY MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS KAMOUGUE AND MINISTER OF POSTS
AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAHAMAT. PRESIDENT STATED THAT HE
HAD CALLED MEETING TO UNDERLINE IMPORTANCE WHICH GOC ATTACHED
TO SUBJECT BUT WISHED MINISTER MAHAMAT MAKE PRESENTATION.

2. MAHAMAT OUTLINED CHAD'S PROBLEMS IN COMMUNICATIONS AND
NOTED THAT IN 1972 GENERAL TELEPHONE AND ELECTRONICS HAD UNDER-
TAKEN EXTENSIVE SURVEY CHADIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS NEEDS.
GOC AMBASSADOR ALINGUE IN WASHINGTON HAS BEEN IN CORRESPON-
DENCE WITH GTE (VICE PRESIDENT ANDERSON) REGARDING SURVEY,
AND MAHAMAT CONSIDERS THAT TECHNICAL DATA OF SURVEY
REMAIN VALID WITH ONLY MINOR NEED FOR UPDATING. STRESSING BACK-
GROUND WORK THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, QUESTION WHICH
MAHAMAT POSING TO CHARGE WAS ESSENTIALLY WHETHER USG WOULD
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CONSIDER FINANCING ALL OR PART TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK CHAD,

PARTICULARLY FROM NDJAMENA TO NORTH AND TO SOUTHEAST. CHARGE ENQUIRED WHETHER GOC IN MAKING REQUEST HAD CONSIDERED LAKE CHAD BASIN COMMISSION PROJECT IN SAME FIELD AND HOW IT WOULD RELATE CHADIAN INTERNAL PLANS. MAHAMAT REPLIED GOC WELL AWARE THAT LCBC HAD BEEN INTERESTED IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECT FOR SEVERAL YEARS, IMPLYING THAT GOC NOT PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH LCBC PROGRESS. MORE IMPORTANTLY ACCORDING MAHAMAT, HOWEVER, GOC INTEREST LIES IN INTERNAL AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORK BEYOND SCOPE OF LCBC. MAHAMAT AND GENERAL MALLOUM STRESSED CENTRAL LOCATION OF CHAD, NOTING THAT MODERN SYSTEM WOULD NOT ONLY BENEFIT CHAD BUT WOULD OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE FOR CONTINENTAL AFRICAN EAST-WEST AND NORTH-SOUTH COMMUNICATIONS. CHARGE STATED WOULD REPORT GOC REQUEST TO WASHINGTON AND MAKE APPOINTMENT FOR CDO TO DISCUSS WITH MINISTER MAHAMAT DETAILS OF GOC ASPIRATIONS.

3. COMMENT: IMPETUS BEHIND REQUEST MOST PROBABLY STEMS FROM GT&E. WHILE IT WOULD APPEAR TO EMB AND CDO THAT GOC REQUEST WOULD MORE PROPERLY BE ADDRESSED TO IBRD OR AFDB RATHER THAN USG GIVEN CURRENT AID PRIORITIES WHICH HAVE BEEN REPEATEDLY EXPOUNDED BY EMB AND CDO TO ALL LEVELS GOC, WILL WITHHOLD COMMENT UNTIL MEETING AUGUST 13 WITH MAHAMAT WHEN MORE DETAILS MAY BE EXPECTED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TELECOMMUNICATION, LOANS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NDJAME02112
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750279-0970
From: NDJAMENA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750856/aaaabxlb.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT REQUESTS URGENT CONSIDERATION FINANCING TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECT
TAGS: EAID, ETEL, CD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006